

Blues unbeaten in Yugoslavia

WYCOMBE Wanderers, in buoyant mood following their fourth Rothmans Isthmian League championship win in five years, and including a number of guest players, were unbeaten on their recent eight day and two match tour of Yugoslavia.

In the first match on Thursday May 29, they drew 0-0 with R.S.D. Split, who finished third in the Third Division of the Yugoslav League, in front of a home crowd of 500. On a hard, bumpy, but grassy pitch close control was difficult.

Split were a skilful team with good frontrunners gaining control on the wings and giving Ilford's Ray Eaton a particularly harassing afternoon. Only John Maskell prevented them from scoring with some brave saves in tight situations — one of them from point-blank range.

Graham Mackenzie seemed to revel in the sun and heat producing a very high work rate and contributing to the many chances Wycombe created. Several players were guilty of missing opportunities. Centre forward Derek Harris, from Loughborough Colleges, could have had a hat-trick of headers.

David Alexander drove wide of a post when put through by the industrious Geoff Anthony, while Dylan Evans found Keith Mead's head only for the latter's attempt to be cleared off the line with the goalkeeper beaten. Having experienced three days of sunbathing, Wycombe could be well satisfied with this result.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, S. Palfrey (sub: G. Olsen 75 mins), R. Eaton, T. Turl, K. Mead, D. Alexander, D. Evans, G. Mackenzie, D. Harris (sub: A. Horseman 75 mins), M. Holifield, G. Anthony.

The following day Wanderers gained a 3-2 victory thanks to two own goals by their opponents F.C. Kolektivac of Postire on the Island of Brac. The game was played on a small pitch with fields on three sides, and a rough road and houses on the fourth with the mountains behind.

This picturesque scene seemed to inspire Anthony, who had a hand in two of Wycombe's goals. He put them into the lead in the fourth minute when a long

goalkick was clipped over the head of the advancing 'keeper.

Opportunities to increase this score went begging until, after sustained pressure, Anthony's shot was deflected past the unfortunate home goalkeeper by one of his full-backs.

Two goals ahead, Wycombe relaxed and allowed their opponents to get back into the game. A fine far post header, which beat Maskell reduced the deficit. Kolektivac equalised before half-time with a flashing free-kick which gave Maskell no chance.

Dylan Evans, a half-time substitute for Anthony, forced the defence to concede a second own goal soon after the break. Despite further pressure Wycombe were unable to increase their lead, although Evans hit the underside of the crossbar with a tremendous effort.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Griffiths, R. Eaton (sub: S. Palfrey), T. Turl, K. Mead, D. Alexander, A. Horseman, G. Mackenzie, D. Harris, M. Holifield, G. Anthony.